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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/723,972	11/28/2000	Tomoko Yamaguchi	NAK1-BN18	6515

21611 7590 06/09/2004

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EXAMINER	
DODDS, HAROLD E	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2177	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/723,972	YAMAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harold E. Dodds, Jr.	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 March 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *21-30* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20 and 31-42* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 31-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,414).

3. Miike anticipates independent claims 31, 35, and 39 by the following:

"...a file storage unit operable to store a file that contains two pieces of data..." at col. 21, lines 53-56 and col. 22, lines 17-19.

"...each piece of data containing a piece of numerical information..." at col. 22, 17-19 and col. 64, lines 48-52.

"...a segment judging unit operable, for each file stored in the file storage unit..." at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 21, lines 53-56.

"...to read the two pieces of data..." at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 17-19.

"...extract two pieces of numerical information respectively..." at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 64, lines 48-52.

"...from the read two pieces of data..." at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 17-19.

"...and judge whether the two pieces of numerical information are continuous..." at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 64, lines 48-52, and col. 16, lines 21-28.

"...and a segment generating unit operable..." at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 48, lines 54-58.

"...if the segment judging unit judges that the two pieces of numerical information are continuous..." at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 64, lines 43-52, and col. 16, lines 21-28.

"...to generate a segment..." at col. 48, lines 54-58 and col. 68, lines 32-39.

"...that contains the read two pieces of data..." at col. 76, lines 50-56, col. 38, lines 15-18, and col. 22, lines 17-19.

4. As per claims 32, 36, and 40, the "...a position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...position obtaining unit operable...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...if the segment judging unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-28,

the "...that the two pieces of numerical information are continuous...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col 64, lines 43-52, and col. 16, lines 21-28,

the "...to obtain two pieces of position information respectively...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...of the two pieces of data from the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...and a position information write unit operable to...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 36, lines 61-65,

the "...recognizing the two pieces of data as the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 61, lines 55-63, col. 22, lines 17-19, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...generate a segment name...,' is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 54-58, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...for identifying the recognized segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 62-66, col. 61, lines 55-63, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...and write into the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 61-65 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...and the two pieces of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...as an entry that corresponds to the segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 39, lines 3-6, col. 46, lines 34-42, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...two pieces of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

and the "...indicating a storage position of the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 19, lines 32-40, col. 21, lines 39-52, and col. 68, lines 32-39.

5. As per claims 33, 37, and 41, the "...if the segment judging unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-28,

the "...that the two pieces of numerical information are not continuous...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col 64, lines 43-52, col. 64, lines 64-66, and col. 16, lines 21-28,

the "...segment generating unit generates a segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 54-58 and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...that contains one of the read two pieces of data...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 17-19,

the "...and generates another segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 54-58 and col. 68, lines 32-39,

and the "...that contains the other of the read two pieces of data...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 17-19.

6. As per claims 34, 38, and 42 the "...if the segment judging unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-28,

the "...that the two pieces of numerical information are not continuous...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col 64, lines 43-52, col. 64, lines 64-66, and col. 16, lines 21-28,

the "...position obtaining unit obtains two pieces of position information respectively...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...of the two pieces of data from the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...and the position information write unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 36, lines 61-65,

the "...recognizing the two pieces of data as two different segments...,' is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 25, lines 44-49, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...generates two segment names...,' is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 54-58, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...for identifying the two segments...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 62-66, col. 61, lines 55-63, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...and writes into the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 61-65 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...two segment names...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...and the two pieces of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...as entries that respectively correspond to the two segment names...," is taught by Miike at col. 39, lines 3-6, col. 46, lines 34-42, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...two pieces of position information...,' is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

and the "...indicating storage positions of the two segments, respectively...," is taught by Miike at col. 19, lines 32-40, col. 21, lines 39-52, and col. 68, lines 32-39.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8 Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Furegati et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,704).

As per claim 1, the "...specifying a segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 66-67. col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...position information read unit operable to read from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...corresponding to the segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 46, lines 34-42, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...by referring to the read piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

but the "...an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request...,"

the "...specified in the segment access request...,"

and the "...and a segment access unit operable to access a segment...," are not taught by Miike.

However, Furegati teaches the use of segment access requests as follows:

"...The database management system (DBMS) or file system used for the implementation of a particular storage segment may have facilities for handling different access requests from different applications to various data items of the same storage segment in parallel access paths (threads) at the same time..." at col. 13, line 4-9.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Furegati with Miike to receive segment access requests in order to use standard search technology and obtain better acceptance of the system. Miike and Furegati teach similar applications. They both teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, the searching for data, and the processing of requests. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names and Furegati provides segment access requests.

9 As per claim 2, the "...wherein the piece of numerical information contained in each piece of data...," is taught by Miike at col. 64, lines 48-52 and col. 22, lines 17-19,

the "...stored in the file storage unit is a timecode...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56 and col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "....file management apparatus further comprising...," is taught by Furegati at col. 5, lines 55-59,

the "...an access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...specifying a segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 66-67, col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...position information read unit operable to read from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...corresponding to the segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 46, lines 34-42, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...specified in the segment access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...and a segment access unit operable to access a segment...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 21, lines 39-52.

are not taught by Miike.

10. As per claim 6, the "...wherein the piece of numerical information contained in each piece of data...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 64, lines 48-52,

the "...stored in the file storage unit is a timecode...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56 and col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...and the file storage unit further stores...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...as an entry that corresponds to a file name of the file...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...position information that indicates a storage position of the file in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...file management apparatus further comprising...," is taught by Furegati at col. 5, lines 55-59,

the "...an access request receiving unit operable to receive an access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...specifying an access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 12, lines 29-46 and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...which is either a segment name or a file name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 6, lines 64-67, and col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...judgement unit operable to judge whether the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...is a segment name or a file name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 6, lines 64-67, and col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...position information read unit operable to read...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...from either the first position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...or the second position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...piece of position information corresponding to the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...judged by the judgement unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...and an access unit operable to access...," is taught by Miike at col. 11, lines 52-60,

the "...either a segment or a file stored in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 13, lines 15-18.

11. As per claim 7, the "...the judgement unit judges that the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56, col. 12, lines 29-46, and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...is a segment name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...when the access target name includes a name of a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 12, lines 29-46, col. 6, lines 64-67, and col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...stored in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-36,

and the "...and a character sequence...," is taught by Miike at col. 51, lines 29-37 and col. 54, lines 26-29,

and the "...indicating a serial number of a segment in the file...,' is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 19-24, col. 13, lines 47-49, and col. 6, lines 31-34.

12. As per claim 8, the "...a file obtaining unit operable to obtain files...," is taught by Miike at col. 11, lines 52-60,

the "...which each include a plurality of pieces of video data...," is taught by Miike at col. 15, lines 29-32,

the "...that have each been assigned a timecode...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...and store the obtained files in a file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at 21, lines 53-56,

the "...segment access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request specifying a segment...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

a position information read unit operable to read, from the position information storage unit, a piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...corresponding to the segment specified in the segment access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...and a segment access unit operable to access the segment in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 11, lines 52-60, and col. 21, lines 52-56,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 13, lines 15-18.

13. As per claim 9, the "...file obtaining unit operable to obtain files...," is taught by Miike at col. 11, lines 52-60,

the "...which each include a plurality of pieces of video data..., is taught by Miike at col. 15, lines 29-32,

the "...that have each been assigned a timecode...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...and store the obtained files in a file storage unit...,' is taught by Miike at 21, lines 53-56,

the "...segment access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment access request specifying a segment...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...segment set access unit operable to access the segment set in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, col. 11, lines 52-60, and col. 21, lines 52-56,

and the "...by referring to the piece of position information of the segment set...,' is taught by Miike at col. 76, lines 50-56, col. 13, lines 15-18, col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48.

14. As per claim 10, the "...access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment set access request..." is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9 and col. 3, lines 43-45,

the "...specifying a segment set name..." is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...each segment set being composed of all segments in a file..." is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, col. 22, lines 47-52, and col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...and each segment set name..." is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...including a name of the file..." is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...and a character sequence unique..." is taught by Miike at col. 51, line 29-37, col. 54, lines 26-29, and col. 59, lines 34-38,

the "...to segment set names..." is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...a position information read unit..." is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...operable to identify a file..." is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 62-66 and col. 36, lines 44-47,

the "...to which a segment set...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 28, lines 43-48,

the "...corresponding to the specified segment set name belongs..." is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67,

the "...and read, from the position information storage unit..." is taught by Miike at col. col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...pieces of position information corresponding to all segments..." is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 22, lines 47-52, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...belonging to the identified file..." is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 62-66 and col. 36, lines 44-47,

the "...recognizing the read pieces of position information..." is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18, col. 22, lines 17-19, and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...as a piece of position information of the segment set..." is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 28, lines 43-48,

the "...and a segment set access unit operable to access the segment set..." is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9 and col. 3, lines 43-45,

the "...In the file storage unit..." is taught by Miike at col. 24, lines 53-56,

and the "...by referring to the piece of position information of the segment set..." is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 28, lines 43-48.

15. As per claim 14, the "...an access request receiving unit operable to receive an access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9,

the "...specifying an access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 66-67. col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...judgement unit operable to judge whether the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...is a segment set name or a file name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, col. 6, lines 64-67, and col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...each segment set being a set of all segments included in one file...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, col. 22, lines 47-52, and col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...position information read unit operable to read...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 4-11,

the "...from either the file storage unit or the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...a piece of position information corresponding to the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 21, lines 66-67, col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...judged by the judgement unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19,

the "...and an access unit operable to access...," is taught by Miike at col. 11, lines 52-60,

the "...either a segment set or a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-35, col. 28, lines 43-48, and col. 36, lines 42-27,

the "..."...stored in the file storage unit..," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

16. As per claim 15, the "...the judgment unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...that the access target name..," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 66-67. col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...is a segment set name...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, and col. 6, lines 64-67,

the "...when the access target name...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 66-67. col. 22, lines 1-3, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...includes a name of a file stored in the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-27 and col. Col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...and a character sequence unique...," is taught by Miike at col. 51, line 29-37, col. 54, lines 26-29, and col. 59, lines 34-38,

and the "...to segment set names...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67.

17. As per claim 19, the "...access request receiving unit operable to receive a segment partial set access request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 8-15, and col. 3, lines 43-45,

the "...specifying a file name and a condition...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47 and col. 48, lines 12-17,

the "...each segment partial set being a set of one or more segments in one file...," is taught by Furegati at col. 8, lines 38-42, col. 4, lines 8-15, col. 3, lines 43-45, and col. 10, lines 7-10,

the "...a position information read unit operable to read..." is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18 and col. 22, lines 4-11,

the "...from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...pieces of position information corresponding to all segments...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 21, lines 39-52, col. 22, lines 47-52, and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...belonging to the specified file and satisfying the specified condition...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47 and col. 48, lines 12-17,

the "...recognizing the read pieces of position information as a piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47 and col. 48, lines 12-17,

the "...of the requested segment partial set...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 8-15, and col. 3, lines 43-45,

the "...and a segment partial set access unit operable to access the segment partial set...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 8-15, and col. 3, lines 43-45;

the "...by referring to the piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. Col. 21, lines 39-52,

and the "...of the segment partial set....," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 8-15, and col. 3, lines 43-45.

18. As per claim 20, the "...each piece of data includes a piece of video data...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 15, lines 29-32,

the "...to which a timecode has been assigned...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...and the segment judging unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...whether two timecodes assigned to two pieces of video data are continuous...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61, col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 15, lines 29-32, and col. 16, lines 21-28.

19. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike and Furegati as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Rusterholz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,873,630).

As per claim 3, the "...each piece of segment position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...includes (1) an address indicating a file start storage position of a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48,

the "...to which the segment belongs...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 31-32,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...and an end of the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 58, lines 19-20, col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...and (c) a size of the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 68, lines 32-39,

but the "...and either (2-1) (a) an address offset...,"

the "...between the file start and a start of the segment...,"

the "...and (b) an address offset...,"

the "...between the file start

the "...or (2-2) (a) an address offset

the "...between the file start and a start of the segment...," are not taught by either Miike or Furegati.

However, Rusterholz teaches the use of address offsets, the start of files, and the start of segments as follows:

"...FIG. 43 illustrates the distribution of addressing information and offset information for jump instructions..." at col. 74, lines 3-4.

"...Next, the CVLP comes from the file address as does the RLMZ on an ALT 2 transfer..." at col. 135, lines 67-68 and col. 136, line 1.

"...The upper 18 bits are called the Segment Address..." at col. 64, lines 47-48.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Rusterholz with Miike and Furegati to use offsets, file addresses, and segment address in order to control addressing of sequential entities in memory and provide greater flexibility in retrieving sequential entities from memory. Miike, Furegati, and Rusterholz teach similar applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, the searching for data, and the processing of requests. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names, Furegati provides segment access requests, and Rusterholz provides offsets, file addresses, and segment address.

20. As per claim 4, the "...a receiving unit operable to receive a segment name obtainment request...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 46, lines 39-44, col. 39, lines 35-39, and col. 256, lines 9-10,

the "...and a segment name output unit operable to...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 39, lines 35-39 and col. 174, lines 23-25,

the "...after the receiving unit receives the segment name obtainment request...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 46, lines 39-44, col. 39, lines 35-39, and col. 256, lines 9-10,

the "...refer to the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48,

the "...and output to outside the file management apparatus...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 174, lines 23-25 and col. 171, lines 25-27,

the "...a list of segment names...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 91, lines 56-58 and col. 39, lines 35-39,

the "...which each include at least (1) a file name of a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...to which the segment belongs...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-35,

the "...and (2) a character sequence...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 36, line 63,

the "...which indicates a position of the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48 and col. 68, lines 32-39,

and the "...in one or more segments belonging to the file...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 40, lines 31-32.

21. As per claim 5, the "...the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48,

the "...stores a table showing relationships...," is taught by Furegati at col. 7, lines 49-52, col. 1, lines 65-67, and col. 2, line 1,

the "...between (1) file names of files to which the segments belong...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-4, col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...(2) serial numbers of the segments in the files...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 19-24, col. 13, lines 47-49, and col. 6, lines 31-34,

the "...which are assigned in order of storage in the files...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 230, lines 1-4 and col. 53, lines 7-9,

the "...and (3) pieces of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...and the position information read unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 13-15 and col. 2, lines 7-11,

the "...after receiving a segment name...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 39, lines 35-39,

the "...refers to the table to detect a piece of position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 11-13 and col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...that corresponds to a file name...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...and a serial number of the segment...," is taught by Furegati at col. 13, lines 19-24, col. 13, lines 47-49, and col. 6, lines 31-34,

the "...which are included in the segment name...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 39, lines 35-39,

and the "...and reads the detected piece of position information from the table...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 54, lines 17-19, col. 137, lines 38-41, and col. 39, lines 35-39.

22. As per claim 11, the "...each piece of segment position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...includes (1) an address indicating a file start storage position of a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48,

the "...to which the segment belongs...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 31-32,

the "...and either (2-1) (a) an address offset...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 74, lines 3-4,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...between the file start and a start of the segment...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 135, lines 67-68, col. 136, line 1, and col. 64, lines 47-48,

the "...and (b) an address offset...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 74, lines 3-4,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...between the file start...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 135, lines 67-68, col. 136, line 1, and col. 64, lines 47-48,

the "...and an end of the segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 58, lines 19-20, col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...or (2-2) (a) an address offset...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 74, lines 3-4,

the "...indicating a size of a portion...," is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 42, lines 19-20,

the "...between the file start and a start of the segment...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 135, lines 67-68, col. 136, line 1, and col. 64, lines 47-48,

and the "...and (c) a size of the segment..." is taught by Miike at col. 40, lines 13-39 and col. 68, lines 32-39.

23. As per claim 12, the "...a receiving unit operable to receive a segment set name obtainment request...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 46, lines 39-44, col. 201, lines 41-42, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 256, lines 9-10,

the "and a segment set name output unit operable to...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 39, lines 35-39, col. 201, lines 41-42, and col. 174, lines 23-25,

the "...after the receiving unit receives the segment set name obtainment request...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 46, lines 39-44, col. 39, lines 35-39, col. 201, lines 41-42, and col. 256, lines 9-10,

the "...refer to the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 33, lines 43-48,

the "...and output to outside the file management apparatus...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 174, lines 23-25 and col. 171, lines 25-27,

the "...a list of segment set names...," is taught by Rusterholz at col. 91, lines 56-58, col. 39, lines 35-39, and col. 201, lines 41-42,

the "...which each include (1) a file name of a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 36, lines 42-47,

the "...to which the segment set belongs...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-35 and 28, 43-48,

the "...and (2) a character sequence unique...," is taught by Miike at col. 51, lines 39-37, col. 54, lines 26-29, and col. 59, lines 34-36,

and the "...to segment set names...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 28, lines 43-48, and col. 61, lines 64-67.

24. As per claim 13, the "...each piece of data includes a piece of video data...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 17-19 and col. 15, lines 29-32,

the "...to which a timecode has been assigned...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61,

the "...and the segment judging unit judges...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39 and col. 21, lines 53-56,

and the "...whether two timecodes assigned to two pieces of video data are continuous...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 55-61, col. 22, lines 17-19, col. 15, lines 29-32, and col. 16, lines 21-28.

25. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike and Furegati as applied to the claim 32 above, and further in view of Hisatomi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,192).

As per claim 16, the "...position information storage unit stores position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...which requests to add a new segment to a file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 22, lines 53-55, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 21, lines 53-56,

the "...segment obtaining unit operable to obtain a new segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 22, lines 53-58 and col. 68, lines 32-39,

the "...position information read unit operable to read, from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...and a segment add unit operable to add the new segment...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 22-39, col. 14, lines 27-31, and col. 22, lines 53-55,

the "...to the file storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 21, lines 53-56,

but the "...file management apparatus further comprising...,"

the "...an add request receiving unit operable to receive a segment add request...,"

the "...that indicates a position of a free space storing no data...,"

the "...piece of free space position information...,"

and the "...by referring to the read piece of free space position information...," are not taught by Miike.

However Furegati teaches the use of file management and the use of segment access requests as follows:

"...By means of an appropriate storage management system those storage segments which are not used much, i.e. which are not frequently accessed, may be put on slower and cheaper storage media..." at col. 5, lines 55-59.

"...The database management system (DBMS) or file system used for the implementation of a particular storage segment may have facilities for handling different access requests from different applications to various data items of the same storage segment in parallel access paths (threads) at the same time..." at col. 13, line 4-9.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Furegati with Miike use a file management system and to receive segment access requests in order to use standard file management technology and standard search technology and obtain better acceptance of the system. Miike and Furegati teach similar applications. They both teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, the searching for data, and the processing of requests. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names and Furegati provides file management systems and segment access requests.

Furegati does not teach the use of free space position information.

However, Histomi teaches the use of free space position information as follows:

"...The recording control information 104 shown in FIGS. 3 and 6 contains a recording management table 114 shown in FIG. 14 and the end address (RECI_EA) of the recording control information 104 and the end address (REC_MAT_EA) of the recording management table 114 are described in the recording management table 114 and a free area (FREE_SPACE) for writing information associated with the recording management is provided..." at col. 11, lines 53-60.

"...A recording/playback apparatus according to this invention is a recording/playback apparatus for recording or playing back main record data containing information of at least one of an image and voice and comprises trigger supplying means for supplying a trigger for registering an index image; position information acquiring means for acquiring recording position information on the recording medium of an image which is now being recorded in response to a trigger supplied by the trigger supplying means: and position recording means for recording the recording position information acquired by the position information acquiring means on the recording medium at the time of termination of the image recording..." at col. 2, lines 10-22.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Histomi with Miike and Furegati to identify blank space in memory in order to reduce the wasted small areas of blank space in memory and provide greater efficiency of storing information in memory. Miike, Furegati, and Histomi teach related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, and the searching for data, Miike and Histomi teach the use of memory, and Furegati and Histomi teach the use of video. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names, Furegati provides segment access requests, and Histomi provides identifying blank space in memory.

26. As per claim 17, the "...position information storage unit stores position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...that indicates a position of a free space storing no data...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11lines 53-60 and col. 2, lines 10-22,

the "...file management apparatus further comprising...," is taught by Furegati at col. 5, lines 55-59,

the "...add request receiving unit operable to receive a segment set add request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 2, lines 62-66, col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 43-45, and col. 8, lines 39-43,

the "...specifying (1) an add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

and the "...and (2) a source file including a segment set...," is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 35-38, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 28, lines 43-48,

the "...which is to be added to the add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...position information read unit operable to read, from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike a col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...piece of free space position information indicating a position of a free space...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11, lines 53-60 and col. 2, lines 10-22,

the "...of the specified add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...segment set extract unit operable to extract all segments...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, col. 13, lines 10-14, and col. 22, lines 47-52,

the "...included in the source file as a segment set...," is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 35-38, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 28, lines 43-48,

the "...by referring to the pieces of segment position information stored in the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike at col. 38, lines 15-18, col. 68, lines 32-39, and col. 21, lines 39-52,

the "...and a segment set add unit operable to add the extracted segment set...," is taught by Miike at col. 68, lines 32-39, col. 23, lines 43-48, and col. 13, lines 10-14,

the "...to the free space...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11, lines 53-60,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of free space position information...," by Histomi at col. 11, lines 41-49, col. 11, lines 53-60, and col. 2, lines 10-22.

27. As per claim 18, the "...position information storage unit stores position information...," is taught by Miike at col. 13, lines 15-18,

the "...that indicates a position of a free space storing no data...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11lines 53-60 and col. 2, lines 10-22,

the "...file management apparatus further comprising...," is taught by Furegati at col. 5, lines 55-59,

the "...add request receiving unit operable to receive a file add request...," is taught by Furegati at col. 2, lines 62-66, col. 13, lines 4-9, col. 4, lines 43-45, col. 8, lines 39-43, and col. 9, lines 50-55,

the "...specifying (1) an add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...and (2) a source file...," is taught by Miike at col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...which is to be added to the add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...position information read unit operable to read, from the position information storage unit...," is taught by Miike a col. 21, lines 39-52 and col. 38, lines 15-18,

the "...piece of free space position information indicating a position of a free space...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11, lines 53-60 and col. 2, lines 10-22,

the "...of the specified add destination file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31, col. 15, lines 65-67, col. 16, lines 1-7, and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...file add unit operable to add the source file...," is taught by Miike at col. 14, lines 27-31 and col. 48, lines 35-38,

the "...to the free space...," is taught by Histomi at col. 11, lines 53-60,

and the "...by referring to the read piece of free space position information...," by Histomi at col. 11, lines 41-49, col. 11, lines 53-60, and col. 2, lines 10-22.

Response to Arguments

28. Applicant's arguments filed 15 March 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the first argument for claims 31, 35, and 39 on pate 24, paragraph 2, the Applicant states:

"More specifically, none of the cited references, individually or in combination teaches, suggests, or motivates the segment judging unit and the segment generating unit, which are the characteristics of the present invention of claim 31. Accordingly, if a device comprising any of the features of the cited references or any combination thereof is applied to the above-provided sample case, such a device would be unable to recognize that two pieces of video data that have been recorded at different times, and therefore impossible to read the two pieces of video data separately as two different segments."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 31, 35, and 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Independent claims 31, 35, and 39 are new claims. Therefore, Applicants amendments necessitated the new grounds of rejection provided by the teachings of Miike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,414).

29. In the second argument for claims 31, 35, and 39 of pare 24 paragraph 5 and page 25, paragraph 1, the Applicant states:

"It should also be noted that, even if all the claimed elements were taught, the Office Action fails to provide an adequate reason for combining the references. The Office action asserts that it would have been obvious to combine Furegati with Rusterholz, and Hisatomi with Furegati and Rusterholz because of the references disclose similar elements. However, similarity of elements is an insufficient reason for combining references. The references all attempt to solve different problems, none of which are the problem addressed by the present invention. The references themselves fail to teach or suggest the proposed combination. The Office Action does not provide any reason why someone of ordinary skill in the art would choose to combine the references

as proposed. As such, there is no support for the assertion that the references in combination anticipate any of the claims."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 31, 35, and 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Independent claims 31, 35, and 39 are new claims. Therefore, Applicants amendments necessitated the new grounds of rejection provided by the teachings of Miike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,414). Miike anticipates claims 31-42.

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Furegati et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,704). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Furegati with Miike to receive segment access requests in order to use standard search technology and obtain better acceptance of the system. Miike and Furegati teach similar applications. They both teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, the searching for data, and the processing of requests. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names and Furegati provides segment access requests. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike and Furegati as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Rusterholz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,873,630). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Rusterholz with Miike and Furegati to use offsets, file addresses, and segment address in order to control addressing of sequential entities in memory and provide greater flexibility in retrieving sequential entities from memory. Miike, Furegati, and Rusterholz

teach similar applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, the searching for data, and the processing of requests. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names, Furegati provides segment access requests, and Rusterholz provides offsets, file addresses, and segment address.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miike and Furegati as applied to the claim 32 above, and further in view of Hisatomi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,192). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Histomi with Miike and Furegati to identify blank space in memory in order to reduce the wasted small areas of blank space in memory and provide greater efficiency of storing information in memory. Miike, Furegati, and Histomi teach related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of files, the use of segments, the storing of data, and the searching for data, Miike and Histomi teach the use of memory, and Furegati and Histomi teach the use of video. Miike provides file storage units, position information, the storage of segments, and segment names, Furegati provides segment access requests, and Histomi provides identifying blank space in memory.

Conclusion

30. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (703)-305-1802. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703)-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.
Patent Examiner
June 7, 2004

GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER